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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/565,419

Applicant(s)

GRUND ET AL.

Examiner

KISHIN G. BELANI

Art Unit

2443

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-850)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/23/2006

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement submitted on 01-23-2006 has been considered by the Examiner and made of record in the application file.

Preliminary Amendment

The present Office Action is based upon the original patent application filed on 01-23-2006 as modified by the preliminary amendment filed on 01-23-2006. **Claims 20-39** are now pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 20, 22, 25-28, 32, 33 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Arora et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,535,110 B1)** in view of **Allan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2007/0297394 A1)**.

Consider **claim 20**, Arora et al. show and disclose a communication system for integrating services in an environment having a plurality of spatial zones (Figs. 1-3 that show a home automation applications system that includes a backbone communication network 202 and the Internet connection 120 (shown in Fig. 2) for automation of home appliances in a plurality of spatial zones (Master Bedroom 110, Family Room 108, Kitchen 106, Garage 104 and Den 114, as shown in Fig. 1), wherein several IP-enabled and non-IP enabled appliances are controlled by the disclosed home automation system that integrates services (A/V 156 and 190, security 122 and 130, heating 134-136, lighting 168, etc.) in different zones of the house; column 2, lines 20-24; column 3, line 41 through column 6, line 63 further describe the details of the home automation communication system), the communications system comprising: an IP-based communication network (Fig. 1 that shows connection 120 to the Internet network; column 5, lines 20-22 disclose a network device 174 that acts as a gateway through which the backbone network 202 is connected to the Internet 120); and at least one adapting and connecting device connected to the IP-based communication network and assigned to one of the plurality of spatial zones, the adapting and connecting device having an IP address, a first group of first interfaces configured to connect to non-IP-based devices (Fig. 1 that shows a gateway 174, connected to the IP-based communication network 120 with its own IP address over which the Internet messages for monitoring and controlling the appliances from mobile control devices (such as PDA) may be received and distributed using other computing devices 176-180 and spatially distributed network adapter devices 128, 140, 146, 154, 162 and 196;

gateway 174 assigned to one of the plurality of spatial zones (Den 114 that acts as a control center), and having a first group of first interfaces 128 (to connect to the garage door opener 130 and garage door 124), 140 (to connect to the water heater 134 and furnace 136), 154 (to connect A/V system 156) and 162 (to connect lamp 168), etc. configured to connect to non-IP-based devices; column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 11, which disclose that each room of the house has one or more network adapters that provide for connectivity to the backbone network and to the IP network through their interfaces to the gateway device 174, thereby disclosing at least one adapting and connecting device; column 3, line 41 through column 6, line 63 further disclose the same details).

However, Arora et al. do not specifically disclose a converting device, wherein the converting device is configured to convert a message being supplied to or being supplied by at least one of the IP-based devices into IP data in accordance with an IP protocol.

In the same field of endeavor, Allan et al. discloses the claimed communication system with a converting device, wherein the converting device is configured to convert a message being supplied to or being supplied by at least one of the IP-based devices into IP data in accordance with an IP protocol (Fig. 1, NI 14 (Network Intelligence) and processor 15; paragraph 0018 which discloses among other components a private IP network 12 connected to NI 14 and ITs (Internet Telephones) 16a-d, a PSTN gateway 18 connecting to a PSTN 20, a public IP network 19 connected by gateway 29 and a non-IP network 25 connected by gateway 31; further disclosing that the non-IP network

could be an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); paragraph 0020 which further discloses that the NI acts as a proxy agent for the IT by converting messages received from the IT to appropriate standard protocol.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a converting device, wherein the converting device is configured to convert a message being supplied to or being supplied by at least one of the IP-based devices into IP data in accordance with an IP protocol, as taught by Allan et al., in the communication system of Arora et al., so that the communicated messages can be understood by the devices that are not capable of interpreting various TCP/IP protocols.

Consider **claim 22**, and **as it applies to claim 20 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system, further comprising a second group of second interfaces configured to connect to IP-based devices (in Arora et al. reference, Fig. 1, a group of computing devices 176-180 that may be desktop or laptop computers (IP-based devices), that interface with the gateway device 174).

Consider **claim 25**, and **as it applies to claim 20 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system, wherein the adapting and connecting device includes an analog-to-digital and a digital-to-analog converter, each being assigned to one of the first interfaces (in Allan et al. reference,

Fig. 2, that shows the architecture of an adapting and connecting device, including codecs 96 and 99, each codec including an A/D and D/A converter; paragraph 0023 discloses the same details).

Consider **claim 26**, and **as it applies to claim 20 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system, wherein the adapting and connecting device has a programmable device configured to activate or deactivate at least one of the first and second interfaces (in Arora et al. reference, Fig. 8, that shows the details of an adapting and connecting device; column 11, lines 3-44 which disclose that the device adapter 166 adds a non-intelligent device to the system by registering the new device using the controls 1206-1210 to set the device code and the module code, wherein the module code specifies the device object class from which a device object should be instantiated to control the device, further describing that controls 1206-1210 may be set remotely through a computer, and disclosing that if the non-intelligent device is broken or unplugged from the adapter 166, the adapter announces that the device has left the system, thereby disclosing a programmable device configured to activate or deactivate at least one of the first and second interfaces).

Consider **claim 27**, and **as it applies to claim 20 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system, wherein the adapting and connecting device is capable of being configured and maintained

remotely (in Arora et al. reference, Fig. 8, that shows the details of an adapting and connecting device; column 11, lines 3-44 which disclose that the device adapter 166 adds a non-intelligent device to the system by registering the new device using the controls 1206-1210 to set the device code and the module code, wherein the module code specifies the device object class from which a device object should be instantiated to control the device, further disclosing that controls 1206-1210 may be set remotely through a computer).

Consider **claim 28**, and **as it applies to claim 20 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system, wherein the adapting and connecting device includes a storage unit, the storage unit configured to store at least one of configuration data, messages received at the first and second interfaces, and messages received over the IP-based communications network (in Arora et al. reference, Fig. 10 that shows different components for the adapting and connecting device including a storage unit 1406 that is configured to store configuration data; column 10, line 61 through column 11, line 2 which disclose performing device configuration using an ABLS 322 (attribute-based lookup service shown in Fig. 3), wherein ABLS stores the device's configuration data in the storage unit 1406; column 12, lines 27-52 further disclose the details of the adapting and connecting device).

Consider **claim 32**, Arora et al. show and disclose an adapting and connecting device (Fig. 1 that shows a gateway 174, connected to the IP-based communication

network 120; column 2, lines 20-24; column 3, line 41 through column 6, line 63 further describe the details of the adapting and connecting device); comprising:

a first group of first interfaces configured to connect to non-IP-based devices (Fig. 1 that shows a first group of first interfaces 128 (to connect to the garage door opener 130 and garage door 124), 140 (to connect to the water heater 134 and furnace 136), 154 (to connect A/V system 156) and 162 (to connect lamp 168), etc. configured to connect to non-IP-based devices; column 3, line 66 through column 4, line 11, which disclose that each room of the house has one or more network adapters that provide for connectivity to the backbone network and to the IP network through their interfaces to the gateway device 174, thereby disclosing a first group of first interfaces configured to connect to non-IP-based devices; column 3, line 41 through column 6, line 63 further disclose the same details).

However, Arora et al. do not specifically disclose a converting device, wherein the converting device is configured to convert a message being supplied to or being supplied by at least one of the IP-based devices into IP data in accordance with an IP protocol.

In the same field of endeavor, Allan et al. discloses the claimed adapting and connecting device including a converting device, wherein the converting device is configured to convert a message being supplied to or being supplied by at least one of the IP-based devices into IP data in accordance with an IP protocol (Fig. 1, NI 14 (Network Intelligence) and processor 15; paragraph 0018 which discloses among other components a private IP network 12 connected to NI 14 and ITs (Internet Telephones)

16a-d, a PSTN gateway 18 connecting to a PSTN 20, a public IP network 19 connected by gateway 29 and a non-IP network 25 connected by gateway 31; further disclosing that the non-IP network could be an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN); paragraph 0020 which further discloses that the NI acts as a proxy agent for the IT by converting messages received from the IT to appropriate standard protocol.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a converting device, wherein the converting device is configured to convert a message being supplied to or being supplied by at least one of the IP-based devices into IP data in accordance with an IP protocol, as taught by Allan et al., in the adapting and connecting device of Arora et al., so that the communicated messages can be understood by the devices that are not capable of interpreting various TCP/IP protocols.

Consider **claim 33**, and **as it applies to claim 32 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed adapting and connecting device, further comprising a second group of second interfaces for connecting IP-based devices (in Arora et al. reference, Fig. 1, a group of computing devices 176-180 that may be desktop or laptop computers (IP-based devices), that interface with the gateway device 174).

Consider **claim 36**, and **as it applies to claim 32 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed adapting and connecting device,

further comprising a programmable device configured to activate or deactivate at least one of the first and second interfaces (in Arora et al. reference, Fig. 8, that shows the details of an adapting and connecting device; column 11, lines 3-44 which disclose that the device adapter 166 adds a non-intelligent device to the system by registering the new device using the controls 1206-1210 to set the device code and the module code, wherein the module code specifies the device object class from which a device object should be instantiated to control the device, further describing that controls 1206-1210 may be set remotely through a computer, and disclosing that if the non-intelligent device is broken or unplugged from the adapter 166, the adapter announces that the device has left the system, thereby disclosing a programmable device configured to activate or deactivate at least one of the first and second interfaces).

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Arora et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,535,110 B1)** in view of **Allan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2007/0297394 A1)** and further in view of **Hao et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2004/0056890 A1)**.

Consider **claim 21**, and **as it applies to claim 20 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system, including disclosing spatial zones in which the claimed system is implemented.

However, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., do not specifically disclose that the environment is on a ship.

In the same field of endeavor, Hao et al. disclose the claimed communication system, wherein the environment is on a ship (Fig. 1; paragraph 0010 which disclose that the claimed system may be used in an on-board computer networks for mobile clients such as in vehicles and in mobile computing platforms; paragraph 0023 which discloses that the mobile computing platform may be on a ship).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed communication system, wherein the environment is on a ship, as taught by Hao et al., in the communication system of Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., because the ship's environment is functionally comparable to the spatial zones of a home environment for a plurality of different occupants.

Claims 23, 24, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Arora et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,535,110 B1)** in view of **Allan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2007/0297394 A1)** and further in view of **Alperovich et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,600,738 B1)**.

Consider **claims 23 and 34**, and as they respectively apply to **claims 20 and 32 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system (and an adapting and connecting device), except wherein at least one of the first and second interfaces includes an assigned pre-specified priority and wherein the adapting and connecting device has a priority-controlled switching

matrix for connecting the at least one of the first and second interfaces to the IP-based communication network.

In the same field of endeavor, Alperovich et al. disclose the claimed communication system (and an adapting and connecting device), wherein at least one of the first and second interfaces includes an assigned pre-specified priority and wherein the adapting and connecting device has a priority-controlled switching matrix for connecting the at least one of the first and second interfaces to the IP-based communication network (Abstract; Figs. 1-2 that show and disclose a communication system 36 with an originating network (ON 14), a terminating network (TN 32) and a core network 24, wherein the core network is IP-protocol based (second interfaces) and the transit network 30 may comprise a non-IP Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN, first interfaces) or an IP-based network; column 1, line 64 through column 2, line 11 which disclose a communication system of selecting a gateway with a codec of the same type as the subscriber codec type, thus preventing unnecessary degradation of the voice signal; further disclosing that the gateways are ranked (assigned selection priority) based on the gateway codec availability, and the core network is adapted to route a voice call as a function of the gateway ranking; Fig. 5 that shows a request 120 for a specified codec (an assigned pre-specified priority), and Fig. 6 that shows a gateway selection list ranked by the codec selection priority (a priority-controlled switching matrix); column 4, lines 19-25, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 22-38 further disclose the details claimed in the invention).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide at least one of the first and second interfaces that includes an assigned pre-specified priority and wherein the adapting and connecting device has a priority-controlled switching matrix for connecting the at least one of the first and second interfaces to the IP-based communication network as taught by Alperovich et al., in the communication system (and an adapting and connecting device) of Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., in order to prevent degradation of the delivered content.

Consider **claims 24 and 35**, and **as they respectively apply to claims 20 and 32 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al. and Alperovich et al., further show and disclose the claimed communication system (and an adapting and connecting device), wherein the message includes an assigned pre-specified priority and the adapting and connecting device has a priority-controlled switching matrix configured to forward the message to the IP-based communication network in accordance with the pre-specified priority (Abstract; Figs. 1-2 that show and disclose a communication system 36 with an originating network (ON 14), a terminating network (TN 32) and a core network 24, wherein the core network is IP-protocol based (second interfaces) and the transit network 30 may comprise a non-IP Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN, first interfaces) or an IP-based network; column 1, line 64 through column 2, line 11 which disclose a communication system of selecting a gateway with a codec of the same type as the subscriber codec type, thus preventing unnecessary degradation of

the voice signal; further disclosing that the gateways are ranked (assigned selection priority) based on the gateway codec availability, and the core network is adapted to route a voice call as a function of the gateway ranking; Fig. 5 that shows a request 120 for a specified codec (an assigned pre-specified priority), and Fig. 6 that shows a gateway selection list ranked by the codec selection priority (a priority-controlled switching matrix); column 4, lines 19-25, lines 50-65, column 6, lines 22-38 further disclose the details claimed in the invention).

Claims 29 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Arora et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,535,110 B1)** in view of **Allan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2007/0297394 A1)** and further in view of **Holt, SR. et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2003/0210699 A1)**.

Consider **claims 29 and 37**, and as **they respectively apply to claims 20 and 32 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system (and an adapting and connecting device), except wherein the IP-based communications network includes a management device, and wherein the adapting and connecting device has a monitoring device connected to at least one of the first and second interfaces and configured to generate and transmit at least one of a status and an error message to the management device.

In the same field of endeavor, Holt, SR. et al. disclose the claimed communication system (and an adapting and connecting device), wherein the IP-based

communications network includes a management device, and wherein the adapting and connecting device has a monitoring device connected to at least one of the first and second interfaces and configured to generate and transmit at least one of a status and an error message to the management device (Abstract that discloses a system for extending a simple network management protocol (SNMP) or other IP network management messaging protocol to one or more non-IP addressed nodes by using a gateway agent addressable by an IP address and one or more non-IP addressed agents to receive and respond to network management messages; Fig. 3 that shows a network management device (SNMP Master 302) coupled to a monitoring device (SNMP Gateway Agent 306) at the IP interface 304 and configured to transmit a Trap message in the event that one of the non-IP devices (SNMP Agent-1 310, Agent-2 312) generates an error message; paragraphs 0015, 0018, 0020-0024 disclose the same details).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide, in the IP-based communications network, a management device, wherein the adapting and connecting device has a monitoring device connected to at least one of the first and second interfaces and configured to generate and transmit at least one of a status and an error message to the management device, as taught by Holt, SR. et al., in the communication system (and an adapting and connecting device) of Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., in order to monitor and manage proper operating states of non-IP devices over an IP network.

Claims 30 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Arora et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,535,110 B1)** in view of **Allan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2007/0297394 A1)** and further in view of **Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,741,705 B1)**.

Consider **claims 30 and 38**, and **as they respectively apply to claims 20 and 32 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system (and an adapting and connecting device), except wherein the adapting and connecting device has an encryption device configured to encrypt and decrypt messages.

In the same field of endeavor, Nelson et al. disclose the claimed communication system (and an adapting and connecting device), wherein the adapting and connecting device has an encryption device configured to encrypt and decrypt messages (Abstract; Fig. 1 that shows a communications network 10; column 3, lines 49-67, column 4, lines 57-67 through column 5, lines 1-33 disclose the details of the claimed encryption device configured to encrypt and decrypt messages).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide an encryption device configured to encrypt and decrypt messages, as taught by Nelson et al., in the communication system (and an adapting and connecting device) of Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., in order to provide security for the messages transmitted over the public network.

Claims 31 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Arora et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,535,110 B1)** in view of **Allan et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication # 2007/0297394 A1)** and further in view of **Dhara et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 6,879,582 B1)**.

Consider **claims 31 and 39**, and **as they respectively apply to claims 20 and 32 above**, Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., show and disclose the claimed communication system (and an adapting and connecting device), except wherein the adapting and connecting device has an internal power supply device configured to temporarily supply the IP- based devices and the non-IP-based devices connected to the first and second interfaces with electric power.

In the same field of endeavor, Dhara et al. disclose the claimed communication system (and an adapting and connecting device), wherein the adapting and connecting device has an internal power supply device configured to temporarily supply the IP-based devices and the non-IP-based devices connected to the first and second interfaces with electric power (Fig. 1 that shows a communications system 100; column 2, lines 22-51 disclose the details of the claimed communication system 100; column 6, lines 10-21 disclose a power battery backup portion of MTA-CT 106 providing uninterruptible power supply (UPS) 216, acting as a battery backup to maintain MTA-CT 106 operation through local power outages).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide an internal power supply device configured

to temporarily supply the IP- based devices and the non-IP-based devices connected to the first and second interfaces with electric power, as taught by Dhara et al., in the communication system (and an adapting and connecting device) of Arora et al., as modified by Allan et al., in order to provide continued service to customers even during normal power supply outages.

Conclusion

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit: 2443

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kishin G. Belani whose telephone number is (571) 270-1768. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Tonia Dollinger can be reached on (571) 270-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

/K. G. B./
Examiner, Art Unit 2443

October 30, 2008

/Tonia LM Dollinger/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2443